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Fish and Game **BULLETIN**



DIVISIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND
FISHERIES AND GAME

FISH AND GAME BULLETIN

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STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

With an organization as large as ours, spread out all over the state, it is extremely important that we keep in touch with one another as closely as possible. It is my hope that this inter-departmental "Bulletin" will help accomplish this.

Since many men stationed in the field a long distance from Augusta have little opportunity to come in contact with members of Divisions other than their own, they sometimes think in terms of their own area and circle of acquaintances. This is only natural, and while frequent Division meetings and visits from supervisors help bridge the gap, a news summary such as this should help tie us closer together.

The success of this monthly bulletin will depend almost entirely upon the interest of men in the field and their contributions to it. So let's get behind it and make it worthwhile.

BOAT SAFETY PROBLEMS

Most every man in the field comes in contact with the sporting public one way or another on our inland waters, and most of us by now are familiar with the growing pressure to strengthen Maine's boating laws. As I pointed out in my December Newsletter, the Fish and Game Department has taken the stand that before any bills are introduced in the Legislature, a thorough study should be made and wishes of organizations concerned should be polled.

Whenever the subject of boating laws is brought up you should point out that interested organizations should get in touch with the office in Augusta after the matter has been discussed with organization members and a committee appointed to represent their views.

A number of states have shouldered themselves with a hodge-podge of useless regulations, and we certainly don't want that to happen to us, since it will be up to the Department to enforce these regulations. Members of the Warden Service should be particularly careful to point out the dangers of poor laws rushed through without proper consideration.

My office door is always open to any member of this Department anytime any of you have a problem you want to discuss. I feel that we have one of the finest organizations in state service, and this is true only because of the fine spirit of cooperation which exists between members of the different divisions. So with the new year just starting, let me wish everyone a happy and successful new year.

FISHERY RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Since 1953, a research project has been underway in the Fish River Chain of Lakes to gather important information on the life history of the land-locked salmon. This information will be used as a basis for salmon management in these and similar State salmon waters. The study is being conducted by Kendall Warner, Regional Fishery Biologist, of Ashland,

During the three years from 1953 to 1955, 1,230 salmon were tagged on the spawning run at Cross Lake Thoroughfare. Fishermen subsequently caught nearly 30 per cent of the 811 salmon tagged in 1953 and 1954, which is considered moderately high exploitation, indicating an intensive fishery. Nearly 44 per cent of these salmon were recaptured either by anglers or on subsequent spawning runs.

Direction of migration following spawning was determined by location of capture by fishermen and return of tagged fish to the spawning grounds. A combined estimate of all data showed that an average of 66 per cent of the salmon spawning in Cross Lake Thoroughfare returned upstream while 34 per cent traveled downstream from the spawning grounds.

Over 80 per cent of the tagged salmon was taken by anglers in April, May, and June. Nearly all the salmon were taken in the four eastern lakes in the Chain; there was little intermixture to adjoining waters.

Another segment of the study is designed to evaluate the contribution of hatchery salmon to the salmon fishery. More than 127,000 two-year-old salmon have been marked by removal of one or more fins and planted in the Fish River Chain since 1955. Marked salmon are being recovered by systematic and voluntary creel census, test netting and trapping on the spawning runs.

Populations of young wild salmon in the thoroughfares connecting the lakes are being studied by electrofishing methods to evaluate production of natural spawning areas.

Scale samples that have been collected throughout the study yield valuable information on age, growth, spawning frequency, age at maturity, and mortality rates. Several thousand scale samples have been collected since the study began.

Information provided by this and similar studies will be of concrete value in guiding salmon management techniques throughout the state.

A BEAVER SHOCKER

A new device to discourage nuisance beaver has proven very effective in the Moosehead Region.

Warden Norman Harriman of Rockwood, we believe, was the first to use a cattle fence shocker to prevent beaver from rebuilding a dam after a hole has been made in the dam.

A wire is stretched across the opening in the dam between two stakes. Many small wires are hung from the main wire so that they almost touch the water. The high voltage side of the shocker is connected to the main wire and a wire from the ground side of the shocker is placed in the water. A six-volt storage battery is used to power the unit.

In their attempts to repair the damage to the dam the beaver apparently touch the hanging wires and receive a good jolt from the shocker unit.

Warden Harriman discouraged nuisance beaver from at least four locations with this equipment. In most cases the shocker was needed for only a few days. The shocker unit was removed and stakes with the hanging wires were left in position.

Fishery Biologists Roger AuClair and David Locke were also successful in discouraging beaver from a dam on Socatean Stream with the unit. The beaver dam was obstructing the brook trout spawning migration from Moosehead Lake.

NEW FISHERY OFFICE

A Regional Fishery office was set up in the Old Hatchery at Squaw Brook in December 1957 by Regional Fishery Biologist Roger AuClair and Assistant David Locke.

The kitchen in the old living quarters above the hatchery building was converted to a comfortable office by adding an oil space heater and two 55-gallon drums for oil.

Some electrical outlets had to be added and the windows made weather-tight. Convenient cupboards and a sink were already present.

The main problem now is keeping the mice under control. The mice have consumed a few packages of d-Con Mouse-Pruff and should soon wind up with a tremendous bellyache.

PRESENT PAPERS AT MONTREAL CONFERENCE

Two fishery biologists from the division presented papers at the Northeast Wildlife Conference held in Montreal, Canada, recently.

Regional Fishery Biologist Kendall Warner spoke on the "Migration of Landlocked Salmon in the Fish River Chain of Lakes." A summary of the report is reprinted above.

Charles Ritzi of Oquossoc gave a paper discussing the effects of two anesthetics on eastern brook trout. Ritzi, in collaboration with Alfred Meister, Orono, a biologist serving with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, conducted experiments with various anesthetics for use in tagging and fin-clipping operations. These anesthetics enable fishery workers to handle more fish in less time and to reduce the possibility of injury to the fish.

THIS FALL DURING THE SALMON SPAWNING RUN AT CROSS LAKE THOROUGHFARE IN THE FISH RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES, A SALMON TAGGED IN 1953 WAS RECOVERED. THIS SALMON WAS TAGGED DURING THE SPAWNING RUN IN 1953 BY KENDALL WARNER, REGIONAL FISHERY BIOLOGIST. THIS FEMALE FISH, AFTER BEING AT LARGE FOUR YEARS HAD GAINED SIX POUNDS SINCE TAGGING. THIS YEAR SHE WEIGHED 11 POUNDS.

A Portland, Oregon, angler was fishing on the Sandy River in that state last summer. While fishing he noticed a steelhead fry dart into the V-shaped opening of a beer can lying on the bottom of the stream in about 18 inches of water. The minnow failed to come out of the can after a few minutes. Inspection of the can revealed 40 more young steelhead imprisoned inside. Over half of them were dead.

A fishery biologist gave the opinion that the opening in the can provided a natural attraction for small salmon, steelhead, and trout up to 2½ inches in length. Natural stream hiding places are normally in the cavities under rocks and boulders. Here, however, the fish can enter and leave readily.

As more and more young fish entered the beer can and were unable to escape the oxygen content of the water inside the can was lowered. This resulted in their death.

NEWS FROM THE GAME DIVISION----

Much of the work in the past few months in the Game Division has been with Federal Aid Project 47-D. This is a developmental program that deals mainly with private landowners.

The bulk of the work is in the creation or improvement of small marshes for waterfowl areas. Various water control structures are being built; for the most part they are earthen-fill dams. The specifications for the construction of these marshes are in accordance with federal regulations in order that federal aid (Pittman-Robertson funds) can be utilized.

The game biologists are cooperating with landowners in building new dams, repairing or altering present dams that are not functioning or are unsuitable for creation of desirable marsh habitat. If the individual dams require expenditures of \$5000 or more, an effort is made to purchase the site. Otherwise a lease is obtained for a 25-year period.

In many places, beaver dams create valuable waterfowl breeding areas. The stabilizing of water levels on such areas is desirable where there is danger of roads, fields, or timber being flooded at high water. Efforts are being continued to install satisfactory control structures to hold water levels to a constant height. In some cases it is desirable to transplant beaver into abandoned sites where impoundments would create valuable marsh habitat.

The members of the Game Division work with landowners on land improvement which help both them and the sportsman. Some fencing is done and signs and boundary markers are given owners for posting--with emphasis on "Open to Hunting" signs.

The planting of evergreens for winter cover is being carried out on farms in burned-over areas or large fields. Suitable stock is purchased from commercial nurseries or the Maine Forest Service and furnished to cooperating landowners who plant them in the areas designated by the Regional Biologist. Plantings are made in small blocks unless deer cover is a specific need.

The interest of farmers and timber operators in planting or treatment of their old logging roads and landings to encourage growth of grasses or legumes is continuing. In fact, considerable opportunity exists for clover plantings over log roads through much of northern Maine. A simple combination of lime and Ladino clover is offering considerable promise.

Developmental work for all types of wildlife are included in the project. Requests are received from time to time for the stocking of offshore islands, particularly with snowshoe hare. Where investigation by the Regional Biologists shows such requests to be justifiable, trapping is carried out. The cooperation of the island's inhabitants is sought, especially in regard to transportation of the trapped animals. The required closing of the season is effected by establishment of the islands as game management areas or by posting.

Effective deer yard management is receiving increasing attention. For the time being wide scale operations will, of necessity, await the outcome of research. This phase of the project involves almost entirely time and travel of the Regional Biologist in working with foresters devising cutting plans in farm woodlot and commercial operations.

Some work is being carried on with bird management. To date little interest in improvement of woodcock covers has been shown by landowners. The biologists are making occasional recommendations for the planting of food strips or shrub planting for the benefit of pheasants where such advice becomes a matter of public relations.

UNITED FUR BROKERS MARKET BULLETIN

NEW YORK--During the first two weeks of December there was little selling of fresh collection furs. Shippers report that there had been but limited trapping interest in wild furs due to the low prices, and since their collections have been so small they are in no hurry to ship to the market here.

Shippers felt that they could possibly obtain somewhat better prices by waiting until the market became established. Most receipts of Muskrats were sold at unchanged prices which was about 10% below last year's opening levels. Dakota Wild Mink have been sold at approximately 15% under last year's prices, but buyers have hesitated to pay shippers asking prices on other section wild mink. There was but limited buying interest in other kinds of wild furs.

Ranched Mink were sold quite satisfactorily at numerous auctions that have been held in Scandanavia, Canada and elsewhere in the U. S., but prices were somewhat disappointing to the ranchers, being only about the same to even lower than prices which were realized in the late December and January auctions of last winter. Many ranchers contend that such low prices make the raising of mink unprofitable. Many manufacturers here who have turned to making mink garments in recent years see an uncertain future in this article and contend that they will work hard to try to promote other furs.

The Fur Trade is now promoting a trade-wide advertising campaign to create more consumer buying interest in furs and has established an initial

fund of over \$300,000 for this purpose. It seems that this venerable trade has finally realized that they must advertise their products the same as every other industry does, in order to have profitable operations.

Our sales for the past week have been as follows: (Excerpts only for the week of December 12)

MUSKRATS: Extra large, large and good medium; Maine, N. H., and Conn., fresh collection, \$1.20, to \$1.25, N. Y., last year's springs, dressed \$1.90. N. Y., springs, part New Eng., winters dressed, \$1.75. Medium & Smalls: Maine, N. H., and Conn., fresh collection, 65 to 70¢. Flat & Damaged: Maine, N. H., and Conn., fresh collections, 50¢. N. Y., last year's springs dressed, \$1 to \$1.10. Kitts & Part Mice: New Eng., fresh collections, 30¢. There has been a good demand from manufacturers here for muskrats for immediate use so that all receipts of fresh collection muskrats had been promptly sold at a price only about 10% under the opening prices of last year. It can be expected that we will have a good demand at firm prices for another two or three weeks or until the manufacturers here buy up sufficient quantities for their immediate needs. From then on most of the buying will have to be done by Europeans or Canadians as it is doubtful that the manufacturers and dealers here will be willing to invest their capitals in muskrats for next year.

MINK: WILD: No New England quotations. Although Europeans appear to be quite eager to buy best Minn., Dakota wild mink are offering prices within about 15% under last year's opening prices, we have made no sales as shippers have refused to accept offers submitted. Collectors are contending that the catch of wild mink will be very light this year, and because of this I am in no hurry to start offering their accumulations. Buyers appear to be very cautious at the start of the season in making offers on ranched mink and seem to have ideas of 10 to as much as 25% under the first prices obtained at the beginning of last year as they say they want to buy more or less in line with the prices that prevailed in the latter part of December or January, last year. Ranchers will probably be faced with disappointing offers in the auctions. However, in view of the fact that manufacturers and dealers here had profitable operations in ranched mink during the past year, it can hardly be expected that the buyers will hold off active buying for very long. The carry-over of mink both wild and ranched, is negligible.

RACCOON: So. N. Y., fresh collections, fair average size, ones and twos, \$1.90.

FOX: No. Can., Red Fox dressed and dyed black, \$8. Gray Fox, central section, old collection, dressed, 80¢. The demand has again gotten slow on this long haired fur. It is encouraging however, that available supplies were considerably reduced as most of the better quality Russian Alaska and No. Can. fox have been disposed of at fairly good prices during the past summer. It is anticipated that buying interest will be resumed at the beginning of the next trimming season, late this winter or next spring.

BEAVER: This article has been in rather poor demand for the past few months. It seems that the manufacturers have had a hard time selling their made up coats and following their usual practice buy skins only when needed. It is anticipated though that they will sell out their present supply of coats and again be interested in buying this article when the late winter and spring trapped beavers will become available. It is reported that some western states have opened the trapping of this article for a long season and that much trapping has been done of very early poor quality, which types will be difficult to sell. Some selling has been done on beaver castors, fair average, western accumulations at \$4 per lb.

SKUNK: The Europeans are again inquiring for good eastern black and short skunk as well as better northwestern and western types, so that it can be expected that prices as high or higher than realized last year will be paid for this article this coming season. Shippers should encourage trapping of this article now that prices have come up to respectable levels.

NEW GAME PERSONNEL

Douglas L. Marston of Mechanic Falls was recently appointed a biologist with the Game Division. He will serve in the region beginning at Fryeburg east to Yarmouth, from Brunswick north to Chesterville, and westerly to Wilson's Mills.

Marston has been acting as soil conservationist in South Paris since 1951 for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He holds a bachelor degree in Wildlife Conservation having graduated from the University of Maine in 1950.

Marston is married to the former Beverly Leadbetter of Auburn. They have two children, Linda, 9, and Stephen, 5. During World War II, Marston served with the U. S. Army Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He was born in Rockland.

Don C. Stanton joined the Game Department as a biologist on December 26. He will assist Chester Banasiak in the analysis of deer data at the Orono office.

Stanton gained much of his experience in game management with the New York Conservation Department. His most recent work has been in Idaho with the U. S. Forest Service. The new biologist holds a bachelor degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Maine and is currently working on his Master's degree from the University of Idaho.

Stanton is a native of Sherman, New York. He is married to the former Jeanne Walsh of Lowell, Mass., and the couple has one child, Sarah, nine months. During World War II, Stanton served with the U. S. Army Air Corps.

AT THE GAME FARM--

The Cooperative Pheasant Rearing Plan is becoming increasingly successful according to reports received from participating members.

Deputy Commissioner Bucknam sent a questionnaire to the 83 persons cooperating in the plan. From these reports he was able to determine the effectiveness of the project.

Over 12,000 pheasants were taken from the Game Farm in Gray and sent to participants during the months of May, June and July. They are held at the farm until they are six weeks old.

The cooperators are expected to provide a suitable enclosure, to pay all expenses involved in raising and caring for pheasants until released, and to release all birds, prior to November 1, on sites approved by the local warden, and under his supervision. The ownership of the birds remains with the Fish and Game Department at all times. However, consideration is given the individual or club in releasing them. The pheasant are let free as close to their vicinity as is consistent with suitable habitat and in such numbers as are most likely to spread the resultant gunning pressures.

The birds are released when they are ten to twelve weeks old. Over 8000 birds were released by the Fish and Game Department to "match" a previously agreed upon number of birds raised by cooperators. In addition the department released another 7000 pheasant in areas of the state where cover and feed conditions were most suitable. This puts the total of birds released throughout the state in the vicinity of 26,000.

The reports of pheasant raisers gave game officials a good indication of the success of the plan. Almost without exception they felt the plan should be continued in 1958. As a result there will be no policy changes and the project will be run much the same way as for the past three years.

Some of the comments received from cooperators in the plan indicate a growing interest in bird hunting throughout the state. They report seeing many pheasant in the areas of release at the end of the hunting season. One participant saw 50 pheasant in a two-week period near Dexter.

The interest in hunting has stimulated an interest in growing the birds. Over 75% of the pheasant are now taken by sportsmen's clubs. They are using their influence to release the birds at more widely scattered points and over a wider period of time. Some have suggested limiting hunters in areas of release.

The overall success of the Cooperative Pheasant Rearing Plan is apparent in the steady increase in the number of birds released. This plan is one part of the Fish and Game Departments efforts to provide better hunting for the sportsman in Maine.

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ONE DAY IN THE 1957 SMALL GAME SEASON THERE WAS AN UNUSUAL ACCIDENT ON A FARM IN PENNSYLVANIA. A WARDEN REPORTS: "WHEN TWO HUNTING PARTIES MET NEAR FRIENDS, AND THEIR RABBIT DOGS STARTED TO FIGHT, THE OWNER OF ONE OF THE BEAGLES LAID HIS GUN ON THE GROUND WHILE HE SEPARATED THE BATTLERS. IN THE SCUFFLE HIS HOUND JUMPED ON THE TRIGGER OF THE GUN, DISCHARGING IT AND KILLING THE OTHER DOG."

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

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The Washington (D. C.) POST and TIMES HERALD for October 19 had a chilling item from Reuters, emanating from The Hague, The Netherlands. The Dutch Minister of Health told Parliament that deformed frogs--with up to 20 legs--had been found in an Amsterdam ditch used as a dumping ground for nuclear waste.

Scientists cannot say for certain that the radioactive waste was responsible for the monstrous deformities in frogs. But it looks like a pretty sound guess to us.

Our first reaction is that it's surprisingly careless and untidy of the Dutch. Our second is that this points up the Alarming nature of this hazardous new kind of pollution. Just think what such wastes might do to our fishery resource if not properly handled--to say nothing of ourselves!

It is not surprising that the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners passed a resolution at its recent annual convention in Las Vegas concerning ocean disposal of radioactive wastes. This key group recommended "that radioactive wastes be disposed of in appropriate underground depositories."

SPORT FISHING BULLETIN, December, 1957.

ENGINEERING DIVISION

The major part of the work done by the Engineering Division during the month of December has been in connection with the hatchery to be built at Enfield. The three department engineers, Chief Larry Decker, Clayton Grant, and John Ketner, Jr., spent part of November and December surveying the site.

The land for the hatchery was purchased through the usual method of condemnation by the state. Then a reasonable sum was paid the landowners. During December much of the site was cleared under the supervision of the construction foreman, Ray Lemelin.

The proposed station will have four single family dwellings, two two-car garages and a combination hatchery. This combination hatchery will have four sections. A cold storage room will be utilized to store the meat used in feeding the fish. The grinder room will hold equipment that prepares the food for the fish. A garage and workshop will be included in the building. Here the staff can make repairs to the nets and other equipment. Thirty-two troughs will take up the main part of the hatchery. The eggs are kept in these troughs (measuring 20 feet long and one foot wide) until they are hatched.

The Enfield hatchery will have 3600 feet of six-foot wide rearing pools. Two pipe lines from Cold Stream Pond will furnish the water for the pools. These pipes will be at 40-foot and 10 to 15 foot levels to insure a constant temperature.

Work on the new hatchery will start in May. It should be in operation by 1959.

During December the engineering division repaired the trusses at the hangar at Greenville. The men are working with the Game Division in planning alterations on the Federal Street Warehouse to provide a regional office for their field men.

One of the projects that keeps the division busy much of the year is marsh improvement and development. The most recent work has been in connection with improving a marsh at Sandy Point.

MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH THE WARDEN SERVICE----

Division A

Maynard Marsh, Supervisor

Division B

Roy Gray, Supervisor

All wardens in Division B report fewer hunters in the woods near the end of deer season. However, those lucky enough to bag a deer had a larger than average animal. The sportsmen reported there were plenty of deer in the woods and many coming out at night.

Moose troubles bothered Warden Supervisor Roy Gray. Sportsmen found several animals shot in the woods. The supervisor was able to salvage some of the moose meat for use at hospitals. Some individuals were convicted of killing moose in closed season with the courts being rather tough on the hunters.

Ducks began to show up in good numbers near the end of November. Large flocks were sighted in Casco Bay and along the Kennebec River above Augusta.

Deer hunting season closed with no snow hunting at all. This factor alone made a big difference in the division's kill. All wardens report plenty of deer left for another year.

Trappers are finding plenty of muskrats and mink but prices are very low. Many trappers took up their traps early. Two fisher were brought in for tagging near the end of November.

Warden Gray had very good luck with most of the temporary wardens this past season with several outstanding men who, he believes, are good prospects for the regular service.

The final deer kill was below last year's high total. Supervisor Gray believes that hunting conditions were responsible for the drop.

Rabbit hunters were out in force by the middle of December and all report that they are finding plenty of snowshoe hare and lots of cottontail or "coonie" rabbits in the Richmond and Bowdoinham sections. Some light snow made good hunting possible.

The rains during December made many of the back roads in this area impassable. This rain with the warm weather took out nearly all the ice, and filled all the brooks and ponds with water.

Rabbit hunters are hunting near the end of December without dogs. The rabbits are all white and make an easy target

Division C

Arthur Rogers, Supervisor

Warden Leon Gilpatrick of Belfast reports quite an unusual deer and car accident on December 3. Emery Nutter of Thorndike was on his way home from Belfast driving a 1957 Pontiac car, when he struck an eight-point buck. He hit the deer with his front left fender. While it only put a small dent in the fender it threw the deer through the windshield and into the back seat. The struggling deer broke out the front right window and right rear window, bent the steering gear wheel and tore up the upholstery. The entire damage was \$800. This was a very dear deer!

Warden Harold Tukey has found lots of activity by rabbit hunters. He checked six hunters with 21 rabbits.

Warden Stanley Richardson of Plymouth reports the boom has been lowered on the rabbit population. He found eight rabbit hunters and three dogs in one patch of woods. They were having very good luck with perfect running for the dogs.

By the first week in December the ponds were all frozen over which made it easy getting to the beaver flowages. The fox population is thin as Warden Richardson reports seeing very few tracks on the fresh snow.

Richardson had a good deer kill in his district. Snow held off until the night of the closing day. He believes there is a good deer herd left. On the morning of December 1 at the registration station at Newburg, the field behind the house was covered with fresh deer tracks on the snow. There were ten different tracks going in one direction.

Warden Milton Scribner each year finds the deer hunters are using heavier caliber rifles. While talking with a farmer a hunter came along with a Magnum rifle and a powerful scope. He told the two how far off he could kill a deer. The farmer listened and said to the hunter, "God, Mister, do you salt the bullet so it will keep the meat till you get there?"

This is the sixth year that Louis Chute has not had a hunting accident or a lost person in his territory.

Warden Milton Scribner of Unity in talking with three hunters from Troy was told that the big bucks were way back in the woods. So the three men went way back and hunted. On returning from the hunt they stopped at Mr. Sandburn's. While there eating a lunch at 5 p.m., two bucks, each weighing over 200 pounds were hit and killed by automobiles within 100 yards of his home on Route 9 in Unity.

Warden Louis Chute of Anson found that the deer kill dropped off sharply near the end of the season. More large bucks were killed then as the cold weather started them moving. One buck brought in weighed 306 pounds on the hoof. It was shot in Solon by Frank Miller of New Jersey.

Small game is fairly plentiful in Richardson's area. Trappers have taken a fair catch of rats and mink, despite low water at the end of November. It was a good year for partridge. A coon hunter from Detroit had 90 coon by November 19.

Warden Harold Tukey of Belgrade Lakes reports mink trappers are doing well in quantity but not so well in quality. They have been getting a lot of small ones. The price is even more discouraging. The quotation in the middle of November was \$12 for the large ones and \$6 for the small ones.

During December there was little fish and game activity in Division C. Some of the districts reported several rabbit hunters. The ice made running difficult in some places. Most of the nimrods are doing very well.

Trapper Wendell Foss of Athens took 72 mink this past season, according to Warden Louis Chute of Anson.

Most of the wardens report seeing many different types of game in the field. Warden Oral Page of Belgrade finds rabbits very plentiful and deer are coming to the fields now that the snow is gone. Warden Chute has noticed that partridge are very plentiful. Warden Basil Clauson of Winterport has talked with hunters who have seen as many as 25 rabbits in one day. Warden Milton Scribner had a bobcat killed in Brooks just before Christmas.

Division D

Wendell Brown, Supervisor

Warden Supervisor Brown says a good sized deer herd remains in his section. There was little ice on the streams and ponds by mid-December, but most of them were well filled with water.

Warden Downs had an interesting conversation with a man from out of state. All manner of questions were asked of Downs. The \$64 question was "Isn't it about time your deer started to hibernate for the winter season?"

Warden Mossey remembers seeing a mink and an otter swimming nearly side by side in a stretch of open water in Little Indian Pond in St. Albans.

Division E

Raymond Morse, Supervisor

Supervisor Morse observed that there was definitely a shortage of out-of-state hunters in his area. Some of the hunting camps were open only for the first week of the hunting season. The Asian flu was responsible for many of the cancellations.

Division E was lucky in that it had the least number of lost hunters this year that they have ever had.

Supervisor Morse reports an odd accident during hunting season. Two hunters returning to their camp in a jeep ran into a fallen tree. The top end of the tree had been cut off and protruded into the road about waist high. The end of the tree pierced through the canvas door of the jeep, then into the side of the driver. He suffered broken ribs and internal bleeding and had to be rushed to the hospital by ambulance.

Two moose were killed near the end of November in Division E. Both of the cases were just needless slaughter. The first one, a large bull, apparently was shot just for a trophy as the head was cut off at the shoulders. The second moose, a yearling, was shot and left. Neither of these moose was woods dressed nor a pound of meat taken.

Supervisor Morse heard of an interesting story which proves that luck plays an important part in deer hunting trips. Four brothers from Otter Creek, Earl, Ernest, Reginald and Clayton Gilley with a friend George Holmes also of Otter Creek, went deer hunting in the Bald Mt. area in Dedham. Up to noon none of them had even seen a deer but in the afternoon they each killed a buck. One had nine points, two eight points, one four points and a spike horn.

The last week of the open season on ducks was a big success all along the coast in Division E. When the fresh water ponds froze over the ducks arrived in the tidewaters in large numbers. Black ducks, Bluebills, and Whistlers were abundant. One duck hunter from the Bagaduce River area, told Morse that he never had seen so many Black ducks and Whistlers in that area before. At the Jordan River, Morse saw one flock of Black ducks which contained "at least five hundred." These ducks were concentrated in a cove on the lee shore with over half of them out of the water up on the shore.

The coot hunting in the division improved near the end of December. Many hunters have been shooting their limit of seven ducks in just a short time. The heavy winds forced a lot of ducks from outside into the bays. Most of this hunting is being done from an anchored boat, with a few hunters on the half tide ledges.

Warden Supervisor Morse reports an increase in duck hunters along the coast. He says he can spot these new duck hunters easily with their bright red coats and red hats.

The rabbit hunters in the district are having a lot of sport with their dogs. The rabbits make a good target as they are nearly all white and there is no snow on the ground.

Near the end of December very few Eider ducks were hunted due to the heavy storms. The rough water with heavy surf made it impossible to land on the ledges. The coot hunters had very good shooting, especially in the Eastern Bay, shooting from boats.

Warden Supervisor Morse notes that there is not much interest being shown in the beaver season. This is due to the low prices listed for the pelts.

Division F

Lloyd Clark, Supervisor

The deer kill in Division F totaled about the same as last year despite a big drop near the end of the season. The biggest drop was in Dale Speed's district.

The rivers were frozen over by the first week of December and as usual fresh water ducks had moved to the coast.

Rabbits seem to be a little more plentiful according to Warden Supervisor Clark. They were showing up well when the ground was bare the early part of December. The mink catch was down in the northern part of the district but reported normal in the coastal area. Clark reported that \$15 was the top price for mink and \$20 for otter.

By mid-December there was a lot of water in the division. Most of the lakes were filled up and the brooks running at flood pitch.

The wardens were busy most of the month on the beaver survey. While working on this they will get some indication of the deer and moose population.

By the end of December Division F looked much like early spring. The black ducks moved into the Maguerrewock Marsh area and fifty or more have been observed feeding in the grain on the new dike.

The rabbit hunters have been having a field day. The rabbits are white and there is little or no snow on the ground.

Division G

David Priest, Supervisor

Warden Supervisor Priest noticed that there was a decided drop in the number of out-of-state hunters during the hunting season. He feels that the lack of snow throughout the whole deer season helped keep the kill down.

Evidently the sportsmen who were in the field were quite lucky. Priest had one occasion to be watching traffic on Route 2. At times cars were lined up bumper to bumper. Many of them were carrying deer. Many others were carrying Christmas trees.

Fluctuation of water has been hard on mink and muskrat trappers in Division G. At first there was not much interest in, but during the second week of December many unemployed farmers again tended lines.

There seems to be a good supply of deer in the area, according to Supervisor Priest. He found many tracks in the snow. The bear apparently dened very early this fall. The wardens felt the reason for this was lack of food in the woods for them to eat.

The heavy rains in December took all of the snow off the ground. They also made conditions extremely hazardous for ice fishing and beaver cruises. The water was reported to be high in all brooks and streams.

Warden Clement has noticed five or six moose yarding in back of his house. He has found many deer throughout his district.

Warden Bonney found a bear asleep in its den recently. When he went back to the den a second time, he found the animal was gone.

Warden Kennett caught two poachers red-handed. He came upon them just as they were cutting up a deer they had illegally killed.

Division H

Wilfred Atkins, Supervisor

The deer season closed in Division H with an all-time high record kill. The big kill was gotten despite continued warm weather and no snow hunting conditions throughout the season.

The largest buck killed by November 26 was shot in New Sweden by Roland Anderson of the same town. The deer weighed 256 pounds woods dressed and qualifies Anderson for the "Big Buck Club."

A great deal of warden time was spent on lost persons. Atkins reported that 25 persons became lost throughout the deer season. Only one stayed out more than one night. Frederick Michaud of Limestone became lost 45 miles in the country west of Ashland. He remained out of doors three days and two nights before he was located.

Harold D. Glidden of Presque Isle made application to the "Big Buck Club" with an 8-point buck weighing 319 pounds live weight. Lawrence Paradis of Presque Isle killed a 10-point buck weighing 286 live weight. Both deer were killed within the city limits of Presque Isle.

By the first week in December most of the waters in the northern division were well frozen. Smelt fishing had already gotten under way at Squa Pan Lake. Fishermen were driving their cars out on the ice at that time.

There was snow tracking of deer the last two days of the season only. Warden Supervisor Atkins figured that had there been more snow the deer kill would have been much higher.

Atkins tagged four fisher skins during the month of November.

Woods work in Division H has been very slow. This is proving to be a financial problem for many families.

A large Canadian lynx was presented for bounty in the district. It was interesting for Atkins to note the difference between lynx and bobcat. The carcass itself was not available for examination by a biologist as the lynx was presented after being stretched out and dried.

There seemed to be more trappers afield this year than usual. The reason for this was lack of work. The high water conditions proved disastrous for the mink trappers. Many were forced to leave behind traps that could not be located in the swollen waters. Warden Durrell feels that the high waters may mean a good winter for fishing.

The low price of beaver pelts does not seem to discourage the trappers. Throughout December they appeared in great numbers. Lumbering operations have been greatly curtailed in comparison to previous years.

All wardens still report a high deer population in their respective districts after the close of the season. By Christmas there were no indications of deer yarding up, due to the lack of snow.

Warden Supervisor Atkins was especially thankful and appreciative of the help given him and his wardens by the Presque Isle and Loring Air Force Base personnel. Through the use of the helicopter and with the help given by the men, many lost persons were located. There were several instances where persons lost in the woods were located and rescued from the ground by helicopter. Both bases were very co-operative regardless whether the people involved were military or civilian personnel.

Division I

Curtis Cooper, Supervisor

Warden Supervisor Cooper reports more large bucks were shot this fall than any previous season he can recall. One bad note -- he learned of more wounded deer getting away and being found later by other hunters after the meat was spoiled.

Cooper was talking to Robert Eastman from Churchill Lake on November 24. He stated that he had a very successful hunting season. At that time better than 90 per cent of the deer he registered were bucks.

Roland and Ken Bouchard from Caribou were hunting near the Big Black River on T. 14, R. 15. They returned to the place Roland had dressed a 10-point buck the day before. There they found the area taken over by a colony of eight martin.

The Bouchard brothers said they watched these animals for most of one forenoon, not knowing for sure what they were. They felt, though, that the trip was well paid for by just observing the habits of these animals.

Warden Cooper observed in one week in the boundary area more martin and fisher signs than he had ever seen.

A. W. Rossignol of Limestone, trapping fisher in the Estcourt district, stated he had released more than twenty martin from his fisher traps in two weeks' time. He had tagged eight fisher by December 1.

Trooper Roland Dumond, State Policeman from Fort Kent, bettered his last year's hunting record by shooting a buck at T. 11, R. 15 near the St. John River. This year's dressed weight was 218 pounds; last year's weighed 205.

The rain of December 11 left the woods southwest of St. Francis bowed and bent with one of the worst ice conditions Warden Supervisor Cooper has ever seen in northern Maine. Patrolling the boundary on December 18 with Pilot Varney from Estcourt to East Lake, the hardwood ridges could be seen for miles glistening in the bright sunshine.

The recent rain and warm spell beginning December 19 did everything except bring the robins back. The ice cleared out of the rivers and brooks. Some raised nearly five feet in one night. The nearly two feet of snow is about all gone, and all the woods roads are impassable at the end of December. Several smelt houses went through the ice on the lakes; others had to be brought ashore.

On December 19, a deer swam the St. John River in St. Francis and was observed lying in the snow in front of Warden Leonard Pelletier's house. He, thinking the deer had been hit by a motor vehicle, attempted to check. As he came close to it, the deer jumped down the 20-foot bank and back into the water. Leonard put his canoe in the river and after 45 minutes rescued the deer. The animal was unable to get out of the river due to shore ice at a point $\frac{1}{4}$ mile down stream. The last report was that the animal was drinking warm milk in Leonard's house.

Warden Dumond of Allagash reports seeing numerous bobcat signs in his district. A dozen or more pheasants have returned to the Dumond farm and are doing nicely feeding on chaff and grain left there when the family moved to town. The Dumonds left the barn door partly open and from all appearances, the birds roost there each night.

Warden Philip Dumond was recently transferred from District 73 to District 74 in Division I.

Division J

Wallace Barron, Supervisor

The deer kill increased in Division J despite poor hunting conditions the last of the season. This slowed down the kill somewhat.

The Division was lucky in that they had no serious cases of lost hunters. Gerald Chaisson, 38, and his son, Conrad, 12, of Jackman had gone hunting with Albert Levesque, 38, and his son Raymond, 14, of Portland. Darkness overtook them in a swamp near the headwaters of Bean Brook and Williams Stream. They had made a fire but all the wood available was on the fire. All were wet from the snow storm with young Chaisson in the poorest condition as he was clad in dungarees.

Another case of lost hunters occurred near Pleasant Pond, Caratunk. A Connecticut man and a Massachusetts man were together in that area when darkness overtook them. They walked out as a search was underway. The radio helped to contact the crew to call the search off.

Wardens in the area spent the middle part of December checking camps and summer residences. Supervisor Barron feels that this activity makes the most friends for the warden service. He finds that most people do not leave their name and address on the camp even though the request is printed on the cards.

An ice storm in the upper part of Division J left the trees covered with a heavy coating of ice during the second week in December. Barron is wondering whether the storm will have an effect on the partridge population. A similar storm two years ago in the Jackman region took a heavy toll of the birds as the ice stayed on for some time.

Warden Supervisor Barron notes that there is increasing interest in beaver trapping in his area this year. Again the reason given is lack of work for common laborers. The price outlook does not seem to discourage the trappers.

Near the end of December there was little activity in Division J due to poor traveling conditions. Wardens tried to cruise beaver but high water prevented them from getting near the brooks. Travel on all ice was very dangerous.

Division K

William Shaw, Supervisor

Warden Ray Ellis of Phillips recently cleaned out the rocks and roots in a brook at Toothacre Pond which was reclaimed last year. He did this the first week in October and near the end of November he saw 30 to 40 eight to fourteen-inch brook trout spawning. These were the first spawning fish he has ever observed.

Warden Gray Morrison of Kingfield during a cruise of the Dead River area saw four separate sets of bobcat tracks. This may be an indication of a good winter for the cat hunters in the area.

A flock of wild doves was noted by Morrison near Carrabassett.

Nature certainly played a mean trick on the rabbits this fall. Most of the small animals turned all white long before the snow was on the ground. They became sitting ducks for the hunters and the predatory animals.

Supervisor Shaw was fortunate in having very few lost hunters. He had no prolonged searches as most of the sportsmen came out of the woods after one night. One reason for having fewer lost men, Shaw believes, is the abundance of roads bulldozed by the lumber companies.

A telephone cable costing \$35,000 has been laid along the bottom of Big Kennebag Lake, according to Shaw. This cable goes the length of the lake.

Warden Neal Edward of Oquossoc reports that Edwin W. Harris of Shiloh, N. J., shot a doe which weighed 100 pounds woods dressed. The doe had a 5-inch spike horn on one side and a nub horn on the other.

Warden Supervisor Shaw reports that there is a good supply of deer left in the woods after the deer season. He feels that lack of snow and fewer hunters held the kill down considerably.

Shaw was helped a great deal in his division by the officials at Loring Air Force Base. The military personnel made available their air rescue service and air police men to aid in the search for lost persons. He mentioned that in several cases the services of helicopters were invaluable.

Warden Gray Morrison of Kingfield noted that Dr. Covert of Kingfield got his first bobcat this winter with Peter the bluetick hound who ran the 30-lb. bobcat two hours in the Dead River region. This is a hobby of the doctor who is a great outdoor enthusiast.

Rangeley Lake had just sealed over when along came the rains and the main body of the lake cleared of ice. Sandy River was at a flood pitch with more water than last spring.

A trapper reported that he received only \$13 straight through counting noses for mink.

Warden Dwight Lander of Stratton recorded two bobcats shot by Lloyd Nile of Langtown. One weighed 40 lbs. and the other 38 lbs.

Division L

Wayne Lindsay, Supervisor

Warden Supervisor Lindsay is pleased to report that one of the division's worst night hunting offenders has been brought into Norway Court on a second offense. He was fined \$500 and 30 days in jail.

Warden Dean Jordan found an unusual cause of death to a moose in Wayne. One of his antlers had been injured when in velvet and it grew into the eye socket. The infection which followed eventually caused the death of the big animal.

The fisher population in Division L is on the increase, according to Warden Lindsay. One Norway trapper had caught ten in the Norway-Paris area by November 21. By December 3, the warden had stamped 50 fisher.

The deer kill in the division was less than last year. Lindsay figured that the decrease was due to fewer hunters afield and noisy traveling conditions. The consolation was that there were plenty of deer left for next year.

Warden Jordan reports that Harvey Freeman and Harland Choate of Wayne, while duck hunting on Androscoggin Lake, November 23, knocked down a duck. As they proceeded to paddle and retrieve it, a large bald-headed eagle swooped down and made off with the duck.

The small ponds in the district were frozen over with from one to four inches of ice by the first week of December. Pickerel fishing was said to be good and several limit catches have been reported.

Rabbit covers are well populated and rabbit hunters are having good shooting. The icy conditions during the first of December made running bad.

Warden Kearney has noticed by the tracks in the snow that there are some deer left but he cannot find the large number of tracks around apple trees that were found last year. Bobcat hunters were having good luck.

Warden Jordan recalls seeing a woodcock in an old field in Leeds, December 18. At that time there was snow on the ground and from 2 to 6 inches of ice on the ponds.

The recent rains and warm weather have taken the snow cover and some ponds that were frozen over are partially clear again. The frost is coming out of back roads and some are nearly impassable.

WARDEN WILSON RETIRES

Warden Howard Wilson retired December 27 after twenty years of service with the Warden Division.

The popular enforcement agent served in both the Jackman and the Freeport areas. His experience with the out of doors began as a construction worker and trapper.

Wilson spent two years in the wilds of Canada trapping. He made his headquarters near Cocrane, Ontario, and from there went into the woods with the native indians.

One story related about Wilson tells of his Yankee ingenuity. During his trapping days, he spent a few days in Montreal. He came out of one of the local establishments to find that the weather had suddenly gotten colder. As he walked through the streets his hands became cold. Spying a manhole with steam arising from it, he went over, took off his gloves and hat, and began to warm his hands.

Other people passing in the street thought that this was a new way to keep warm. Within a few minutes a large group of people were crowding around the manhole with their hands stretched out getting a little warmth.

Wilson joined the Warden Service in 1937, serving in his home town of Jackman. He proved to be a popular and respected law enforcement officer in that area.

The veteran warden is married and has two boys, aged 24 and 18.

* * * * *

We had a good example of inter-state and intra-state police cooperation during the hunting season. Three New Jersey hunters came to Maine on a hunting trip. The wife of one of the hunters took an auto trip and was involved in an accident in New Bedford, Massachusetts. She appealed to the police department in that city to aid in contacting the husband. She had only the information that the hunters were in the Moosehead Lake area, the make and color of the car and the state in which the car was registered, but not the number.

The information was sent to the State Police at Augusta by teletype, from there by radio to Skowhegan, to Trooper Smith who works the Moosehead area. He went to Greenville, contacted Warden Gauvin. They started contacting hunting lodges and wardens by radio.

Warden Perry picked up the information and recalled seeing a car answering the description given. He located the car and left a note for the hunters to phone Trooper Smith for full information. This group of hunters were well pleased with the service rendered by the law enforcement officers. Another good example of some fine cooperation that goes on daily between warden service and state police.

WARDEN REPORT, WALLACE BARRON

THE HATCHERY DIVISION

The Hatchery Division completed its 1957 yearly stocking period the first of December. Over two million fish were planted throughout the state.

The division broke down the total planted into four species: brook trout, 1,316,172; brown trout, 117,250; togue, 210,356; and salmon, 501,560. The total weight for the 2,145,338 fish was 93,770 pounds.

The Division experienced a number of improvements at its hatcheries throughout the state. Completely new refrigerating equipment was installed at New Gloucester. The crew there regraveled the pools on one of the two lines.

Low water in Pleasant Pond forced the hatchery men to forego the use of one of the two lines at Casco. The recent rains have started to fill the pond so that both sides should be running by the time the ice is out.

The water level at Littleton has increased to the point where the station is again able to operate.

The men of the division are working with the engineers in planning a new station at Enfield. Work on this hatchery should start in May and be finished by 1959.

Two hundred thousand togue eggs from Manitoba, Canada, have been received at the Governor Hill Hatchery and are all hatched. Trout eggs have been received at Dry Mills, Governor Hill, Dead River and Grand Lake Stream.

The Dry Mills hatchery is back in full operation after renovations during the summer. The engineering division supervised the building of 1400 feet of eight-foot wide pools.

Extensive work on the facilities at Palermo was completed recently. One thousand feet of eight-foot wide pools were added. A cold storage building and a single family dwelling were constructed. A pipeline from the rearing pools into Sheepscot Pond was laid.

INFORMATION

AND

EDUCATION

The Division's film library now totals 51 prints. Latest addition to the library is the 20-minute, sound and color film "Wood Duck Ways." Beginning in the early spring, the film follows the wood duck from the courting and mating season, through the incubation and the hatching period and includes the brood's spectacular emergence from its tree home. It then shows three broods actually leaving their nests and landing on the ground. This is an excellent film for all age groups, particularly schools.

Films are available from the Division, and any one wishing to book a film for a speaking engagement can do so.

Ken Gray has completed his latest film entitled "Maine Waterfowl Story," and copies are expected back from the laboratory to be put into circulation sometime in February. This film documents the waterfowl program of the Game Division and the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Maine. Toward the end of the film there are some excellent duck hunting sequences and footage on Ospreys and Bitterns which lend viewer interest.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

One of the rapidly expanding programs of the I & E Division is in the field of Conservation as it pertains to schools, teachers and children. For the past year Larry Stuart has been devoting all his time promoting a program of wise resource-use education in the schools of Maine. Due to the enthusiastic cooperation of Commissioner Warren Hill and his staff in the State Department of Education encouraging progress has been made in the following fields.

Summer workshops in Conservation Education for teachers have been established at Bryant Pond. Here teachers study the basic laws of natural science and conservation and learn through actual field experience how to integrate those concepts into their daily teaching.

Materials for classroom use dealing with Maine's natural resources are now being prepared by a group of teachers working cooperatively with this Department and the State Department of Education.

Since many teachers cannot attend summer workshops plans have been made to carry the workshop program in abbreviated form to the teachers in their own schools. This is called

"in-service training" and the first such program is scheduled for the Madison-Skowhegan area in middle April, 1958. We hope this will be the beginning of many such programs throughout the state.

Garden Clubs, Fish and Game Associations and other service organizations are being informed through lectures and other means of the new emphasis on resource-use education and are being encouraged to offer scholarship aid to local teachers to attend summer workshops.

If you know of any such organization in your area that would like to know more about this program, particularly with the thought in mind of doing something to further it locally, why not encourage them to contact Larry Stuart in the I & E Division for additional information or an illustrated lecture program for one of their meetings?

NEW I & E PERSONNEL

Joan W. Hutchinson of Augusta was recently appointed an informational writer with the Information and Education Division. She will work mainly with publications of the department.

Mrs. Hutchinson has worked on Bar Harbor and Augusta newspapers. She was graduated from the University of Maine in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in business and economics.

The new writer is married to Robert Hutchinson of Augusta. She formerly lived in Bar Harbor.